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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In re Applications of) MM Docket No. 92-187
FAMILY STATIONS, INC. Bakersfield, California) File No. BPED-890815MC)
SHEPHERD COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Shafter, California) File No. BPED-891113ME))
For Construction Permit for a New Noncommercial FM Station))

To: Honorable Edward Luton
Administrative Law Judge

JOINT MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL TIME
WITHIN WHICH TO SUBMIT PETITION FOR SETTLEMENT
AND FOR FURTHER SUSPENSION OF PROCEDURAL PROCEEDINGS

Family Stations, Inc. ("Family"), by its attorney, and Shepherd Communications, Inc. ("Shepherd"), by its attorney, jointly petition the presiding Judge for additional time to and including January 15, 1993, within which to submit a joint petition, and related documents, in order to accomplish the proposed settlement of the above-captioned proceeding. The parties also request a further suspension of the procedural dates in the proceedings.

By <u>Hearing Designation Order</u> (HDO), released August 19, 1992 (Mimeo No. DA 92-1080), the Commission designated for comparative hearing the application of Family for Channel 215B1 at Bakersfield, California and the applications of Shepherd and

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List A B C D E

Skyride Unlimited Incorporated ("Skyride") for Channel 215B at Shafter, California. The Skyride application has been dismissed. And, in order to try to avoid the expense and delay of a comparative hearing between Family and Shepherd, the presiding Judge suspended the previously scheduled procedural dates and granted Family and Shepherd until December 23, 1992, within which to submit their settlement proposal. Although the parties have reached agreement on a plan whereby the applications of Family and Shepherd will be amended in a way that will remove the mutual exclusivity presently existing between them, the actual amendments have not yet been finalized and, therefore, are not able to be filed on this date. The Family amendment will require Family to change its proposed channel to 217, move its proposed transmitter location to a new site and modify its operating parameters. Shepherd amendment will be less substantial, involving only a reduction in power and modification in operating parameters. Together the changes will remove the mutual exclusivity between Family and Shepherd, permitting the applications of both parties to be granted without the need for a comparative hearing.

As between the parties, Family undertook the initial responsibility for finalizing its amendment, since it would require a new channel and transmitter site. Early in the process, Family identified two existing communications' sites that could be used as a new transmitter site for its proposed operation on Channel 217. Family selected one of the locations as the preferred site from a technical and financial prospective. Dealings with the tower owner

were delayed, in part, by the absence of Family's Director of Engineering who travelled to and was responsible for the design, construction and activation of a new commercial FM radio station at Minsk, Belarus. He did not return to the United States until approximately December 15. Arrangements with the tower owner proceeded promptly thereafter and on December 19, the tower owner provided Family with a written assurance that Family could specify the tower for its Channel 217 amendment.

The exact parameters of the corresponding amendment for Shepherd could not be finalized until the details of Family's modification were finalized. That has been done, and the parties have agreed to proceed with mutually contingent amendments, each of which will be filed as expeditiously as possible. The parties have drafted and are in the process of finalizing a formal settlement agreement. The other related documentation (joint petiton, petitions for leave to amendment and declarations) have been drafted and also are in the process of being finalized for filing. The parties intend to file the settlement package as quickly as possible; however, a further postponement of the procedural dates until January 15, 1993, is requested in order to avoid unforeseen problems.

Counsel for the Hearing Branch has been contacted and will not object to this request. The parties will supply the amendments to the Hearing Branch for informal review as soon as they are ready.

The settlement package advances important public interest considerations. It will permit the termination of this proceeding, without a hearing, thereby eliminating the burden on the resources of both the Commission and the parties to proceed with the prosecution of the case. It will accelerate the provision of a first local FM radio service to Shafter, California and an additional noncommercial radio service to Bakersfield, California.

Conclusion

Therefore, Family and Shepherd respectfully request that the presiding Judge grant them additional time to and including January 15, 1993, within which to file their settlement material and further postpone the procedural dates in this proceeding.

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Its Attorney

Alan C. Campbell

Respectfully submitted,

FAMILY STATIONS,

and

SHEPHERD COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Oxenford.

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December 22, 1992

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Lorena L. Ferry, hereby certify that on this 23rd day of December, 1992, copies of the foregoing "Joint Motion For Additional Time Within Which To Submit Petition For Settlement And For Further Suspension Of Procedural Proceedings" have been served either by hand delivery or first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, upon the following:

The Honorable Edward Luton*
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* Denotes hand delivery